

F-8196

Identifier: Masao TERAOKA

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 24, 42 and 43 have been analyzed for patentability and the Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph for reciting a planetary gear and carrier. While the figures label item 93 as a planetary gear and item 95 as a planetary carrier, the Examiner asserts these items are not actual planetary gears and carriers as is known in the art. Applicant has obviated the rejection by amending Claim 2 (and similarly Claim 11) to recite that the compression member includes:

“a pair of gears provided as the pair of members, ~~an outer gear a planetary gear~~ engaged with the gears and ~~an outer gear support a planetary carrier~~ for supporting the planetary gear...”

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 24, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hakui ('521). Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 13, 24, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakakibara et al ('347). Claims 6, 8, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hakui as modified by Harbey (USPubNo. 2002/0144876 A1). Claims 15, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakakibara as modified by Puiiu ('550). Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakakibara as modified by Harvey. Claims 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakakibara as modified by Harvey and Puiiu.

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In reviewing the references and the claims, the references fail to teach the following:

“the pair of gears comprise a proximal gear and a distal gear;
the distal gear being disposed further from the rotary actuator than the proximal gear; and
the proximal gear having an inner radii that is smaller than the inner radii of the outer gear.”

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 2 to include the limitations of Claim 1 and further amended the claim to contain the stated limitations.

In reviewing Harvey and the rejection of claims 6 and 8, the reference fails to teach the following (as illustrated in Figs. 15 and 16 of the application):

“the outer gear support comprises:
first and second radially extending plates disposed on axially opposing ends of the outer gear;
a pin connecting the plates and supporting the outer gear;
one of the plates including a cutout, the cutout having a first end disposed between an inner and outer radius of the plate and the cutout extending tangentially from the first end; and
the urging member being a biasing member that engages the plate cutout.”

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 6 and 8 as such to further distinguish the invention from the art.

Applicant has further provided new Claim 44 reciting that:

“the coupling further comprises:
an exterior housing;
a pinion shaft rotatably connected with the input rotary member;
the pinion shaft being rotatably supported within the housing by a pair of axially spaced bearings; and

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center axes of each bearing and said pinion shaft being mutually angularly offset.”

The above recitations are not taught in the references so that the claim is patentable over the art.

One claim in excess of twenty is added. The fee of \$50.00 for the claim(s) is provided for in the charge authorization presented in the PTO Form 2038, Credit Card Payment form, provided herewith.


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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.


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